Thomas A. Edison Papers Digital Edition

Edison-Miller Family Records

Edison-Ford Winter Estates, Fort Myers, Fla.

[X104Q-F] Miller, Robert Anderson

Edison-Miller Family Papers

Title

[X104Q-F] Miller, Robert Anderson

Description

These documents consist of letters from Edison's brother-in-law Robert A. Miller (1861-1911) to his mother Mary Valinda Miller. Most of the selected items were written during the period October 1901-October 1902, while Miller was serving as U.S. Postmaster at Ponce, Puerto Rico. In addition to references to his wife and children and his activities as postmaster, there are numerous remarks about other members of the Miller family; their health, financial affairs and travels; and their civic, social, educational, and religious activities. A few letters allude to the activities and travels of Mina Miller Edison, gifts from her, and news of their mutual acquaintances. There is also a letter in which Miller reminisces about President William McKinley, who appointed him as postmaster in 1899.

Eight additional letters from Miller to his mother have not been selected. A letter from December 28, 1897, describes Christmas at the Miller home in Canton, Ohio. The next six letters, which cover the period August 1901-September 1902, were written from Puerto Rico. Included are a Christmas letter from December 25, 1901, along with letters from May 17 and June 3, 1902, indicating that Robert Jr. was attending Grace Miller's Oak Place School in Akron in preparation for entering St. Paul's School in the fall. The 1902 letters also mention "the Volcano," as being "our topic of conversation down here these days." The reference is to the eruption of Mount Pelee on Martinique on April 23, 1902—an event regarded as the worst volcanic disaster of the twentieth century. A letter from September 22, 1902, announces plans to return to Akron in time for Thanksgiving dinner. In the last letter, written from Chautauqua on October 31, 1909, Robert mentions that he met his brother Ira upon arriving in New York City from Puerto Rico and briefly visited Mina at Glenmont before leaving for Chautauqua.

URL

https://edisondigital.rutgers.edu/folder/X104Q-F

Identifier

X104Q-F

Alternative Title

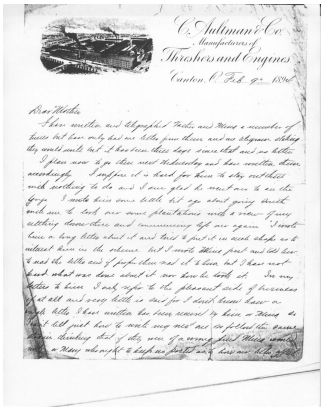
Edison-Miller Family Papers -- Miller, Robert Anderson

Is Part Of

Edison-Miller Family Papers

Rights

Edison-Ford Winter Estates, Fort Myers, Fla.



Attribution

CC0 1.0 Universal

[X104QA], Letter from Robert Anderson Miller to Mary Valinda (Mrs Lewis) Miller, February 9th, 1894

Title
[X104QA], Letter from Robert Anderson Miller to Mary Valinda (Mrs Lewis) Miller, February 9th, 1894

Author
Miller, Robert Anderson

Recipient
Miller, Mary Valinda (Mrs Lewis)

Mentioned

- Miller, Lewis
- Miller, Louise Igoe (Mrs Robert A.)
- Miller, Mary Emily
- Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)
- Miller, Rachel Alice
- Miller, Robert Anderson, Jr

Date
1894-02-09

Type
Letter

Subject
Edison-Miller family

Folder ID
X104Q-F

Document ID
X104QA

URL
https://edisondigital.rutgers.edu/document/X104QA

Rights
Edison-Ford Winter Estates

Publisher
Thomas A. Edison Papers, School of Arts and Sciences, Rutgers University

License
CC0 1.0 Universal

Timestamp
9 February 1894

Created with PDiiif v0.2.3
https:/pdiiif.jbaiter.de

https://edisondigital.rutgers.edu/iiif/2/X104QA/manifest

C. Aultman & Co.
Manufacturers of
Threshers and Engines.

Canton, O. Feb. 9th 1894

Dear Mother

I have written and telegraphed Father and Minn a number of times but have only had one letter from them and one telegram stating they would write but it has been three days since that and no letter

I plan now to go there next Wednesday and have written them accordingly. I suppose it is hard for him to stay out there with nothing to do and I am glad he went on to see the Gorge. I wrote him some little bit ago about going South with me to look over some plantations with a view of my settling down there and commencing life over again. I wrote him a long letter about it and tried to put it in such shape as to interest him in the scheme but I wrote Minn first and told her to read the letter and if proper then read it to him but I have not heard what was done about it nor how he looks it. In my letter to him I only refer to the pleasant side of business if at all and very little is said for I don't know how a long letter I have written has been received by him or Minn so I won't till just how to write my next one so for God's sake don't begin drinking that if they were of a strong kind Minn would not or Mary who ought to keep us posted as to how we letter of

I say I only wish I knew the pleasant part of business but so far as his matters are concerned all of it is pleasant for every one with whom I talk concerning his affairs even if they are interested to the amount of $3000 or more talk of him in the highest terms and sympathy and sympathy that they are willing to back up with their actions. I have the first one to hear of yet that will not gladly fall in with our plans as to his affairs and express hopes for him. I feel certain that he will come out all right in the end.

The children are doing nicely and I see no reason why you should not come down and see us. I am sure we are not afraid to talk with you and if any thing is said we will not repeat it as we do not tell what is said by others to amount to much.

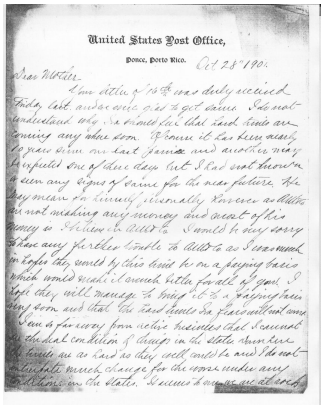
I may be up there tomorrow evening for dinner when we can see about your coming down.

Robert Jr, when I read your letter aloud with him in my lap, said "what does Grandma say about my "corping" cough." He is about over his and Rachel Alice is much better than she was.

Lonie went over to Mrs. Barnes for luncheon this noon and otherwise the family you see is in good health and spirits. I am inclined to think matters are turning for the better now and that we have seen the worst. We are talking of going to Georgia on a plantation to live and I am looking up some and want Father to go down with me to examine them.

Much love from all to all.

Robert.


United States Post Office,
Ponce, Porto Rico.

Attribution

CC0 1.0 Universal

[X104QB], Letter from Robert Anderson Miller to Mary Valinda (Mrs Lewis) Miller, October 28th, 1901

Title
[X104QB], Letter from Robert Anderson Miller to Mary Valinda (Mrs Lewis) Miller, October 28th, 1901

Author
Miller, Robert Anderson

Recipient
Miller, Mary Valinda (Mrs Lewis)

Mentioned

- Aultman Miller & Co
- Hartzell, Josiah
- Miller, Ira Mandeville

Date
1901-10-28

Type
Letter

Subject

- Edison-Miller family
- General economic and business conditions

Folder ID
X104Q-F

Document ID
X104QB

URL
https://edisondigital.rutgers.edu/document/X104QB

Rights
Edison-Ford Winter Estates

Publisher
Thomas A. Edison Papers, School of Arts and Sciences, Rutgers University

License
CC0 1.0 Universal

Timestamp
28 October 1901

Created with PDiiif v0.2.3
https:/pdiiif.jbaiter.de

https://edisondigital.rutgers.edu/iiif/2/X104QB/manifest

United States Post Office,

Ponce, Porto Rico. Oct 28" 1901.

Dear Mother

Your letter of 16th was duly received Friday last. and as one glad to get same. I do not understand why Sa should feel that hard times are coming any where soon. Of course it has been nearly 10 years since our last panic and another may be expected one of these days but I had not known or seen any signs of same for the near future. He may mean for himself personally Services as All Co are not making any money and most of his money is I believe in All Co. I would be very sorry to have any further trouble to All Co. as I was much in hopes they would by this time be on a paying basis which would make it much better for all of you. I hope they will manage to bring it to a paying basis very soon and that the hard times Sa fears will not come.

I am so far away from active business that I cannot see the real condition of things in the states. Even here the times are as hard as they well could be and I do not anticipate much change for the worse under any conditions in the states. It seems to me we are at rock

bottom here and any change must be for the better. Personally I am getting along very well on my salary and have a couple of outside things that will help me some and hope today to get another that will help me quite a little. It is a receivership of a large plantation and if I get it as I expect it will be a nice thing for me I will know in a day or two.

The Hartzells will live in San Juan and although that is only 80 miles from here it takes longer than for you to go to New York so we are not likely to see much of them but it is nice to have friends on the Island and in power. When you come down we will go and call on them in San Juan.

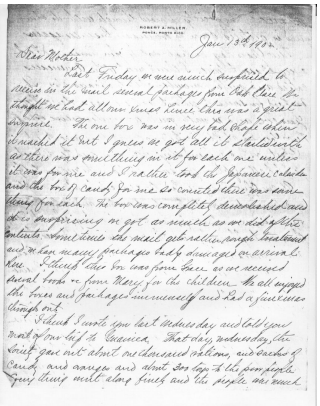
Our carriage has arrived and is fine we have had one ride in it but with horses we were trying and did not like so we have no horses as yet to drive in our fine carriage. We expect to have some in a few days.

We are going to move our office in a few days and then we will be quite well as the new office is finely furnished.

We are all well and getting along nicely. We hope are doing the same with you. Love to all.

Yours.

Robert.



Attribution

CC0 1.0 Universal

[X104QD], Letter from Robert Anderson Miller to Mary Valinda (Mrs Lewis) Miller, January 13th, 1902

Title
[X104QD], Letter from Robert Anderson Miller to Mary Valinda (Mrs Lewis) Miller, January 13th, 1902

Author
Miller, Robert Anderson

Recipient
Miller, Mary Valinda (Mrs Lewis)

Mentioned

- Chautauqua Institution
- Aultman Miller & Co
- Miller, Ira Mandeville
- Miller, Grace A
- Miller, Mary Emily
- Miller, Lewis Alexander
- Miller, Rachel Alice
- Miller, Robert Anderson, Jr
- Miller, Lewis, II

Date
1902-01-13

Type
Letter

Subject

- Edison-Miller family
- National government (U.S.)
- Social customs, norms, values
- Stocks, bonds, and investments

Folder ID
X104Q-F

Document ID
X104QD

URL
https://edisondigital.rutgers.edu/document/X104QD

Rights
Edison-Ford Winter Estates

Publisher
Thomas A. Edison Papers, School of Arts and Sciences, Rutgers University

License
CC0 1.0 Universal

Timestamp
13 January 1902

Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin Preußischer Kulturbesitz

xasia

Created with PDiiif v0.2.3
https:/pdiiif.jbaiter.de

https://edisondigital.rutgers.edu/iiif/2/X104QD/manifest

ROBERT A. MILLER.
PONCE, PORTO RICO.

Jan 13th 1902.

Dear Mother

Last Friday we were much surprised to receive in the mail several packages from Oak Place. We thought we had all our Xmas since this was a great surprise. The one box was in very bad shape when it reached it but I guess we got all it started with as there was something in it for each one unless it was for me and I rather took the Japanese calendar and the box of candy for me as counted there was something for each. The box was completely demolished and it is surprising we got as much as we did of the contents. Sometimes the mail gets rather rough treatment and we have many packages badly damaged on arrival here. I think this box was from Grace as she received several books we from Mary for the children. We all enjoyed the boxes and packages immensely and had a fine Xmas through out.

I think I wrote you last Wednesday and told you most of our trip to Guanica. That day, Wednesday, the Society gave out about one thousand rations, and sacks of candy and oranges and about 300 toys to the poor people. Every thing went along finely and the people are much

pleased. The Society is now through with its shows and is getting down to ordinary business again.

New Years day we kept out 7 open house and had a very pleasant time. I think most of the Americans called and quite a number of Porto Ricans also. It was hard for some to get out as there was a dance New Years eve and we with quite a number more spent New Years Eve at Mr Fritzi's so most of us were tired.

Robert Jr had a friend stay with him and they did not go to bed all night so you see he started in the new year badly.

At our open house we had tea & chocolate at one table and lemonade & fruit punch at another and we had candies fig, raisins, &c &c about for them to eat as they pleased. Every thing went off nicely and the Americans said it was the most American thing they had seen to occur in Porto Rico.

What has become of Lewis with my Roses? I rather thought I would hear from them in this last mail also that I would hear from Dr & some of you about the division of the money from the Carlton Street Ry sale but I presume Dr is too busy. Now I also asked you some time ago and said I wanted an answer as to the address of "Dade" Goodrich but you forgot it so I repeat the inquiry.

I suppose Chautauqua meeting will be soon and I wonder who will be the next President. I anticipate that it will be Mr Day.

Yes you wrote you were going to give us a lot at Chautauqua Now as to choice I do not know just what lots are to be selected Send us if you can the numbers of the lots or a plat of the grounds with the lots marked from which we are to make our selection of course we will be pleased to help you out Or we had just as soon leave the matter to you and you give us such as you care to any lot will answer as I do not remember of you having any undesirable lots. I do not know now when we will be in position to build on the lot or even to occupy it with our tent or But the time may come and in the meanwhile we will be glad to own a lot at Chautauqua and live in anticipation of some time spending a summer there If we had a little of the educational advantages here it would seem like a Chautauqua all the time for we practically live out doors and a camp life. It is fine in many respects and we enjoy it greatly

We are sorry Mary did not come down and see us yet in Ropes time if you may make us a visit.

It is really easier for one of you to come to us than for one of us to go to you as we have no one with whom to leave the children and life here alone is rather hard when we have so few really social friends. Summer is about as pleasant as winter here so we will expect some of you any time of the year you can come.

I am still minister but I had extremely small congregations yesterday owing to the rain most of the day I am greatly in hopes the regular ministers will soon come.

I have started a sort of Library in connection with the Post office. There were two rooms in the same building that were unoccupied and the carriers and some of the clerks have considerable time each day to themselves but when they must be near the office to be called if needed so I arranged with them to pay part of the rent of the two rooms and I would pay the balance and furnish such books and magazines &c as I could so when you or your friends have finished any books or magazines and don't know what to do with them send them down for my public library. &c. You see there is so much to do for these people down here that really one cannot tell what to do and cannot help from doing something even to straining a point to do it.

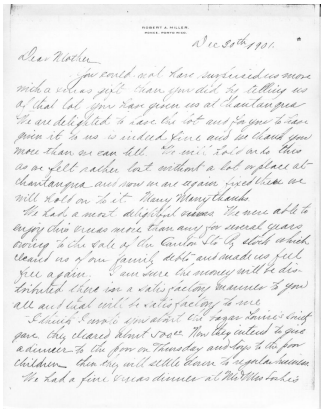
We are all well and getting along finely. I should judge that we ought to be quite content <u>even</u> down here as you

all seem to be having calves. Hard times. Times are not exceedingly easy with us but we get along fairly well and live in hopes they may always continue as good as they are now and grow better with time. It does not pay to worry over matters any how but take them as they come and make the best of them. I hope Allbert Co. will one of these days come to the front in good shape and make you all happy. I am out of it so far as stocks is concerned and only hope you may all realize good profits in the near future.

Lewis is here by my side and wants me to thank you for his xmas present. He is going to school and doing nicely. I think he will write you a little letter himself one of these days.

Give our love to all and to all our friends and let us hear after.

Your Robert.



Attribution

CC0 1.0 Universal

[X104QC], Letter from Robert Anderson Miller to Mary Valinda (Mrs Lewis) Miller, December 30th, 1901

Title
[X104QC], Letter from Robert Anderson Miller to Mary Valinda (Mrs Lewis) Miller, December 30th, 1901

Author
Miller, Robert Anderson

Recipient
Miller, Mary Valinda (Mrs Lewis)

Mentioned

- Chautauqua Institution
- Miller, Ira Mandeville
- Miller, Louise Igoe (Mrs Robert A.)
- Marvin, Richard Pratt
- Miller, Robert Anderson, Jr

Date
1901-12-30

Type
Letter

Subject

- Edison-Miller family
- National government (U.S.)
- Property
- Stocks, bonds, and investments

Folder ID
X104Q-F

Document ID
X104QC

URL
https://edisondigital.rutgers.edu/document/X104QC

Rights
Edison-Ford Winter Estates

Publisher
Thomas A. Edison Papers, School of Arts and Sciences, Rutgers University

License
CC0 1.0 Universal

Timestamp
30 December 1901

Created with PDiiif v0.2.3
https:/pdiiif.jbaiter.de

https://edisondigital.rutgers.edu/iiif/2/X104QC/manifest

ROBERT A. MILLER.
PONCE, PORTO RICO.

Dec 30th 1901.

Dear Mother

You could not have surprised us more with a xmas gift than you did by telling us of that lot you have given us at Chautauqua We are delighted to have the lot and for you to have given it to us is indeed fine and we thank you more than we can tell. We will hold on to this as we felt rather lost without a lot or place at Chautauqua and now we are again fixed there we will hold on to it. Many Many thanks.

We had a most delightful xmas. We were able to enjoy this xmas more than any for several years owing to the sale of the Canton St. Ry stock which cleared us of our family debts and made us feel free again. I am sure the money will be distributed there in a satisfactory manner to you all and that will be satisfactory to me.

I think I wrote you about the Sagar Louis's Xmas gave. They cleared about 500.00 Now they intend to give a dinner to the poor on Thursday and toys to the poor children. Then they will settle down to regular business.

We had a fine xmas dinner at Mr Miss Forbes's

consisting of Roast pig. Lamb and Turkey and all the other necessary parts of a fine meal. The children ate their turkey at home and had a very nice time. We received many presents. but most of them came Friday instead of Xmas day I left the rug for Xmas and it was all right as were the apples which we enjoyed hugely. Apples cost 3 to 5 cts each here and oranges 3 to 5 for one cent We had 1000 oranges which we distributed Xmas day to our American friends sending each about two dozen. The P.O. force presented me with a nice plaque and one man gave me a box of cigars and another a memorandum book. so they did right well by me I think.

I have written you about all we got on Xmas day but Friday we received some Money from Richard and personal letters from Portland Ore. Canton Ohio. Louisville Ky and Indianapolis Ind and Minneapolis Minn. so taking the two days together you see we had a fine Xmas.

New Years day Louise is going to treat home to callers and she has asked Conrad to call so we hope to sort of start the custom of New Years calls. We are invited to see the old year out and the new year in at Mr Fritze's the German consulate and expect a nice time.

We are talking of going to Jamaica where the Americans first landed next Monday. Monday 6th is what they call 3 kings day and is their real Xmas here.

We thought of all of you at Dan's on Xmas day sitting around the fire trying to keep cool while we were as cool as need be and as comfortable as possible without fire and with doors and windows wide open. We had all one could wish for Xmas and we are all as happy as larks these days.

We hope to hear all about your Xmas in our mail this week and to know you had a fine time.

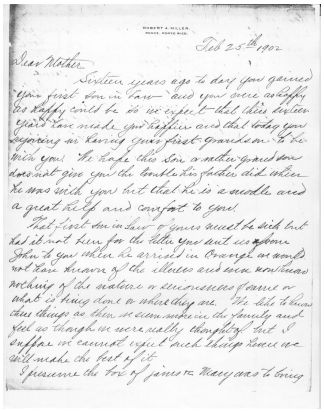
Robert Jr is delayed on going to you on account of not having heavy clothing to wear. We are ordering today some clothes for him from Rogers Peet & Co New York and as soon as they arrive we will pack him off to you. He is very anxious to go but I am not so sure we are doing the wise thing altho I am sure he is not doing as well as he should here and I think the less of the two evils is to let him go North.

We are going to have Mrs & Miss Fraser of Philadelphia to lunch with us this noon and we dine at Mrs Fontis tonight.

We are all well and every thing is moving along nicely. All send love to you and all.

Yours.

Robert



Attribution

CC0 1.0 Universal

[X104QE], Letter from Robert Anderson Miller to Mary Valinda (Mrs Lewis) Miller, February 25th, 1902

Title
[X104QE], Letter from Robert Anderson Miller to Mary Valinda (Mrs Lewis) Miller, February 25th, 1902

Author
Miller, Robert Anderson

Recipient
Miller, Mary Valinda (Mrs Lewis)

Mentioned

- Miller, John Vincent
- Miller, Mary Emily
- Miller, Robert Anderson, Jr
- Miller, Lewis, II
- Edison, Thomas Alva

Date
1902-02-25

Type
Letter

Subject

- Edison-Miller family
- TAE health

Folder ID
X104Q-F

Document ID
X104QE

URL
https://edisondigital.rutgers.edu/document/X104QE

Rights
Edison-Ford Winter Estates

Publisher
Thomas A. Edison Papers, School of Arts and Sciences, Rutgers University

License
CC0 1.0 Universal

Timestamp
25 February 1902

Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin
Preußischer Kulturbesitz

xasia

Created with PDiiif v0.2.3
https:/pdiiif.jbaiter.de

https://edisondigital.rutgers.edu/iiif/2/X104QE/manifest

ROBERT A. MILLER.
PONCE, PORTO RICO.

Feb 25th 1902

Dear Mother

Sixteen years ago to day you gained your first Son in Law and you were as happy as happy could be so we expect that these sixteen years have made you happier and that today you rejoicing in having your first Grandson to be with you. We hope this Son or rather Grandson does not give you the trouble his father did when he was with you but that he is a needle and a great help and comfort to you.

That first Son in Law of yours must be sick but had it not been for the letter you sent us from John to you when he arrived in Orange we would not have known of the illness and we now know nothing of the nature or seriousness of same or what is being done or where they are. We like to know these things as then we seem more in the family and feel as though we were really thought of. But I suppose we cannot expect such things hence we will make the best of it

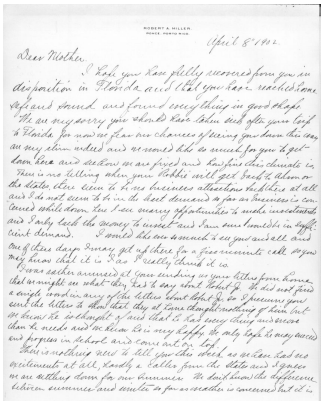
I presume the box of jams & Mary was to bring

down is at the fort as I understand there is a box there for me. We will get it up as soon as possible and enjoy the contents. Many thanks to you all for your kindness

Every thing here is going along in the same slow and easy manner and all of us are keeping well. Luis said this morning, "Father you know I did not eat anything last evening but meat and potatoes and this morning I do not feel like playing at all" but I guess he is all right now.

All send to you and the rest a great ocean of love and best wishes

Yours Truly
Robert.



Attribution

CC0 1.0 Universal

[X104QF], Letter from Robert Anderson Miller to Mary Valinda (Mrs Lewis) Miller, April 8th, 1902

Title
[X104QF], Letter from Robert Anderson Miller to Mary Valinda (Mrs Lewis) Miller, April 8th, 1902

Author
Miller, Robert Anderson

Recipient
Miller, Mary Valinda (Mrs Lewis)

Mentioned

- Miller, Louise Igoe (Mrs Robert A.)
- Miller, Robert Anderson, Jr

Date
1902-04-08

Type
Letter

Subject

- Edison-Miller family
- National government (U.S.)

Folder ID
X104Q-F

Document ID
X104QF

URL
https://edisondigital.rutgers.edu/document/X104QF

Rights
Edison-Ford Winter Estates

Publisher
Thomas A. Edison Papers, School of Arts and Sciences, Rutgers University

License
CC0 1.0 Universal

Timestamp
8 April 1902

Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin Preußischer Kulturbesitz
xasia
Created with PDiiif v0.2.3
https:/pdiiif.jbaiter.de
https://edisondigital.rutgers.edu/iiif/2/X104QF/manifest

ROBERT A. MILLER.
PONCE, PORTO RICO.

April 8th 1902.

Dear Mother.

I hope you have fully recovered from you indisposition in Florida and that you have reached home safe and sound and found every thing in good shape. We are very sorry you should have taken sick after your trip to Florida for now we fear our chances of seeing you down this way are very slim indeed and we would like so much for you to get down here and see how we are fixed and how fine this climate is. There is no telling when your Robbie will get back to Akron or the States. there seem to be no business attractions back there at all and I do not seem to be in the least demand so far as business is concerned while down here I see many opportunities to make investments and I only lack the money to invest and I am sure I would be in sufficient demand. I would like ever so much to see you and all and one of these days I may get up there for a few minute call so you may know that it is I as I really think it is.

I was rather amused at your sending us your letters from home that we might see what they had to say about Robert Jr. We did not find a single word in any of the letters about Robert Jr. so I presume you sent the letters to show that they at home thought nothing of him but we know he is thought of and that he has every thing and more than he needs and we know he is very happy. We only hope he may succeed and progress in school and come out on top.

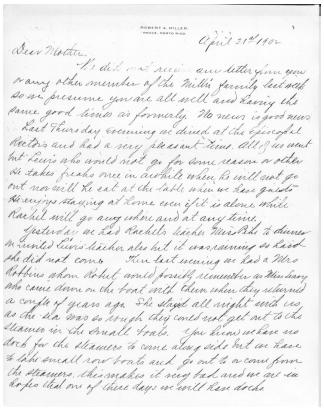
There is nothing new to tell you this week as we have had no excitements at all, hardly a caller from the States and I guess we are settling down for our summer. We don't know the difference between summer and winter so far as weather is concerned but it is

a little more quiet in Summer.

A couple of weeks ago there was an excursion to St Thomas which Louise and I took in and now there is to be another to St Croix, another of the Islands the U.S. is buying from Denmark, but we think we will not take it in. It is on Sunday and only the one day and Stores are closed of course so we do not get to see the places to any advantage and having seen St Thomas the centre Island we think we will let that answer for the present.

We are all well and everything is moving along finely with us and we trust it is doing the same for you and all there. We all send you a world of love also to the others. Let us hear from you often and fully.

Yours. Robert.



Attribution

CC0 1.0 Universal

[X104QG], Letter from Robert Anderson Miller to Mary Valinda (Mrs Lewis) Miller, April 21st, 1902

Title
[X104QG], Letter from Robert Anderson Miller to Mary Valinda (Mrs Lewis) Miller, April 21st, 1902

Author
Miller, Robert Anderson

Recipient
Miller, Mary Valinda (Mrs Lewis)

Mentioned

- Yale University
- St Paul's School
- Judd, James Robert
- Judd, Agnes Boyd (Mrs Albert F.)
- Miller, John Vincent
- Miller, Louise Igoe (Mrs Robert A.)
- Miller, Rachel Alice
- Miller, Robert Anderson, Jr
- Miller, Lewis, II

Date
1902-04-21

Type
Letter

Subject
Edison-Miller family

Folder ID
X104Q-F

Document ID
X104QG

URL
https://edisondigital.rutgers.edu/document/X104QG

Rights
Edison-Ford Winter Estates

Publisher
Thomas A. Edison Papers, School of Arts and Sciences, Rutgers University

License
CC0 1.0 Universal

Timestamp
21 April 1902

Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin
Preußischer Kulturbesitz

xasia

Created with PDiiif v0.2.3
https:/pdiiif.jbaiter.de

https://edisondigital.rutgers.edu/iiif/2/X104QG/manifest

ROBERT A. MILLER.
PONCE, PORTO RICO.

April 21st 1902

Dear Mother

We did not receive any letter from you or any other member of the Miller family last week so we presume you are all well and having the same good times as formerly. No news is good news.

Last Thursday evening we dined at the Episcopal Rector's and had a very pleasant time. All of us went but Lewis who would not go for some reason or other He takes freaks once in awhile when he will not go out nor will he eat at the table when we have guests He enjoys staying at home even if it is alone while Rachel will go any where and at any time.

Yesterday we had Rachel's teacher Miss Pike to dinner we invited Lewis' teacher also but it was raining so hard she did not come. Then last evening we had a Mrs Robbins whom Robert could possibly remember as Miss Leary who came down on the boat with them when they returned a couple of years ago. She stayed all night with us as the sea was so rough they could not get out to the steamer in the small boats. You know we have no dock for the steamers to come along side but we have to take small row boats and go out to or come from the steamers. this makes it very bad and we are in hopes that one of these days we will have docks.

Louie's, Woman's club is coming on very nicely and the people are quite enthusiastic about the same this club and the Benevolent Society give Louie plenty to do so she cannot get lonesome. She is just now quite tired of the house as she has been confined in it very closely for over a week. We are going to take a little ride tonight if it is not raining.

We understood from a letter (Benevolent Society letter) from a friend in Canton that Robert Jr was down at Canton. We have not had many letters from Robert Jr or the teachers of the school telling us of how he is getting along in his school work. I think he must be having a very pleasant time and if his school work is as satisfactory as we are much pleased but we do not want him to have so much pleasure to the detriment of his schooling.

What has become of John? we have not had from him for some little time. He had a friend of his Robert Burdick to dine with us last Saturday. He was in the same class at Yale with the boys and since then seems to have been knocking a great deal. He has been to Honolulu and stopped with the Judd's there. He is now on his way home from South America where he went by way of England. He stopped off here to see Porto Rico and call on another Yale man who knew the boys, Alexander Burr Mason, of whom we wrote to John but he did not answer any thing about him so we do not know what John thinks of him if he remembers him at all.

Our Governor Mr Hunt is an enthusiastic Yale man and I meet many such here. Everyone speaks in the highest terms of your boys who seem to have been very well known. This Robert Brewster was with the boys at St Paul's also & he is a very nice fellow apparently.

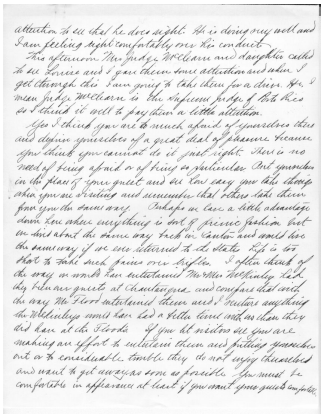
What is new at Oak Place or Akron? How have you settled with the Conger controversy? Louise thinks she has found out something about me now since my last letter to you in which I said as long as I could not live and die in Akron it made no difference to me where I lived or died. She says I would never admit as much before. But I think I have always felt that way. I don't mean to say I am particularly anxious to return to Akron and go into business for I think I can do as well some other place but if I had the money to quit business and simply live to die I had just as soon live in Akron or rather "Oak Place" as any place I know. To me Oak Place is quite an ideal place.

There is not much to tell you this time and I seem to be rather dull this afternoon not meaning to say I am particularly bright any time but some times things seem to run smoother than others.

I am all quite well and every thing is moving along nicely. Business is fairly good and seems to be increasing a little all the time.

All send a world of love to you and all.

Robert



Attribution

CC0 1.0 Universal

[X104QH], Letter from Robert Anderson Miller to Mary Valinda (Mrs Lewis) Miller, April 1902

Title
[X104QH], Letter from Robert Anderson Miller to Mary Valinda (Mrs Lewis) Miller, April 1902

Editor's Notes
Supplied year and month

Author
Miller, Robert Anderson

Recipient
Miller, Mary Valinda (Mrs Lewis)

Mentioned

- Chautauqua Institution
- Aultman Miller & Co
- Miller, Lewis
- Miller, Ira Mandeville
- Vincent, John Heyl
- McKinley, William
- Miller, Louise Igoe (Mrs Robert A.)
- Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)
- Miller, Rachel Alice
- Miller, Lewis, II

Date
1902-04-00

Type
Letter

Subject

- Edison-Miller family
- Newspapers, books, other publications
- Social customs, norms, values
- Management (companies and organizations)

Folder ID
X104Q-F

Document ID
X104QH

URL
https://edisondigital.rutgers.edu/document/X104QH

Rights
Edison-Ford Winter Estates

Publisher
Thomas A. Edison Papers, School of Arts and Sciences, Rutgers University

License
CC0 1.0 Universal

Timestamp
1 April 1902

Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin Preußischer Kulturbesitz

xasia

Created with PDiiif v0.2.3
https:/pdiiif.jbaiter.de

https://edisondigital.rutgers.edu/iiif/2/X104QH/manifest

attention to see that he does right. He is doing very well and I am feeling right comfortably over his conduct.

This afternoon Mrs Judge McLearn and daughter called to see Louise and I gave them some attention and when I get through this I am going to take them for a drive. &c. I mean Judge McLearn is the Supreme Judge of Porto Rico so I think it well to pay them a little attention.

Yes I think you are to much afraid of yourselves there and deprive yourselves of a great deal of pleasure because you think you cannot do it just right. There is no need of being afraid or of being so particular. Put yourselves in the place of your guest and see how easy you take things when you are visiting and remember that others take them from you the same way. Perhaps we have a little advantage down here where everything is sort of picnic fashion but we live about the same way back in Canton and would live the same way if we ever returned to the States. Life is too short to take such pains over trifles. I often think of the way we would have entertained Mr & Mrs McKinley had they been our guests at Chautauqua and compare that with the way Mr Flood entertained them and I venture anything the McKinleys would have had a better time with us than they did have at the Floods. If you let visitors see you are making an effort to entertain them and putting yourselves out or to considerable trouble they do not enjoy themselves and want to get away as soon as possible. You must be comfortable in appearance at least if you want your guests comfortable.

I notice by the papers today that there is a Harvesting Machinery Combine but that so far Adee & Co are not in it. I am very sorry for this but I presume they will get in it before long. It seems to me Mr Comee made a mistake to talk as he did about the matter and to say he expected Adee & Co would soon be in it. Of course I can only judge from the newspapers but it seems to me an air of knowledge but secrecy would have been a wiser method as I do not think it wise to make it appear that one is anxious to sell or ignorant of movements. I hope it will come out in fine shape for Adee & Co but judging from what you all say, rather by insinuation than by direct statement, I fancy Adee & Co. is not in position to demand as much as they once could have done.

Yes we get the Chautauqua Herald and I read it quite fully. I notice Bishop Vincent was given a most hearty reception and I notice his picture while walking from the dock through the lines. Chautauqua seems to hold its own in good shape and I am very glad it does for it reflects great credit and glory on Father who was the main spring of the whole matter. Father's credit and glory is gaining every day and more and more he is recognized as the originator and founder and I therefore hope the institution will grow in favor and usefulness.

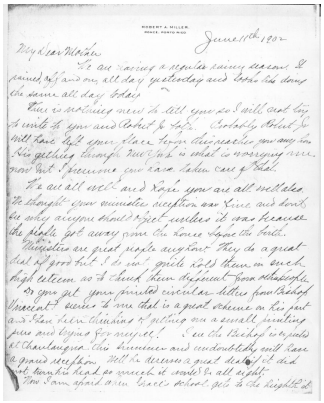
Sunday or yesterday, as this is now Monday and what I have written before was written on Saturday, was a very pleasant day and our entire family attended church and Sunday School as usual. Mr Gunn the rector of the Episcopal church came home to breakfast with us and Mr & Mrs & Miss McClean and Mr

five boarders for Blofer [illegible]
for us this week
Sunn all took 4 o'clock tea with us. Mrs McClean says she has a sister Mrs Simms and a cousin Mrs Richards who live in the Park at Orange and one or both are acquainted with Nina as are some others of her family.

Our cook left us Saturday morning as Louie told her she would make a change on Sept 1st. and our cook did not wait that long. We have another coming Wednesday however so are not out much and we have plenty of help any how. We had a cook. a Louie maid and her sister and niece, a laundress a yard man and a sewing woman so we can spare one for a day or two with out much loss. We did not pay the sister any thing and the niece only her keep so you see our bill is not large. 6.00 a month for cook (new one at 5.00). 4.00 for Louie maid. 2.25 for sewing maid 5.00 for laundress. and 7.00 for man. We will cut these prices when we make a change in any of our present force and they all know we can get help for less money so they do not object much and work quite well.

Rachel writes from Artonito that she is having a very nice time. Louie and the boys had a nice time on the picnic and I enjoyed showing the McClarins around. Today I have been very busy and will be again tomorrow as besides my assistant being away another of the clerks is sick and I have no substitute to help do his work. If possible I am going to spend Wednesday in the Country but I can't say as yet whether I can or not. I will not have time tomorrow probably to add any to this letter as it is now 6.40 PM and I just got through my work and tomorrow being mail day will be more busy than today has been so I will not get through until mail close at 7 PM. We are all well and happy and all join in much love to you and all

James Robert



Attribution

CC0 1.0 Universal

[X104QI], Letter from Robert Anderson Miller to Mary Valinda (Mrs Lewis) Miller, June 11th, 1902

Title
[X104QI], Letter from Robert Anderson Miller to Mary Valinda (Mrs Lewis) Miller, June 11th, 1902

Author
Miller, Robert Anderson

Recipient
Miller, Mary Valinda (Mrs Lewis)

Mentioned

- Chautauqua Institution
- Vincent, John Heyl
- Miller, Grace A
- Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)
- Miller, Robert Anderson, Jr

Date
1902-06-11

Type
Letter

Subject
Edison-Miller family

Folder ID
X104Q-F

Document ID
X104QI

URL
https://edisondigital.rutgers.edu/document/X104QI

Rights
Edison-Ford Winter Estates

Publisher
Thomas A. Edison Papers, School of Arts and Sciences, Rutgers University

License
CC0 1.0 Universal

Timestamp
11 June 1902

Created with PDiiif v0.2.3
https:/pdiiif.jbaiter.de

https://edisondigital.rutgers.edu/iiif/2/X104QI/manifest

ROBERT A. MILLER.
PONCE, PORTO RICO

June 11th 1902

My Dear Mother

We are having a regular rainy season. It rained off and on all day yesterday and looks like doing the same all day today.

There is nothing new to tell you so I will not try to write to you and Robert & Lola. Probably Robert will have left your place before this reaches you any how. His getting through New York is what is worrying me now but I presume you have taken care of that.

We are all well and hope you are all well also. We thought your ministers reception was fine and don't see why anyone should object unless it was because the people got away from the house before the birth.

Ministers are great people anyhow. They do a great deal of good but I do not quite hold them in such high esteem as to think them different from other people.

Do you get your printed circular letters from Bishop Vincent? It seems to me that is a great scheme on his part and I have been thinking of getting me a small printing press and trying for myself! I see the Bishop is expected at Chautauqua this summer and undoubtedly will have a grand reception. Well he deserves a great deal if it did not turn his head so much it would be all right.

Now I am afraid when Gracie's school gets to the height of

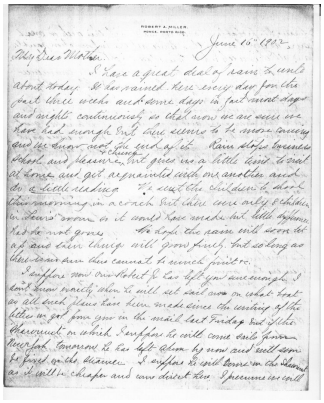
is bound to get to that her head will be turned the same way! You must guard against that. Don't permit any printing press in the house or I am afraid Grace will swamp us with letters. I have been thinking of applying for the position of Sec. & Treas. of the School so as to help Grace out with her letter writing. Nina comes by classes with Grace of late but, Oh well.

If we had any thing to write about down here I could write to each one many volumes but as I said and you may be thankful.

Give our love to all and commence now to get that thanksgiving dinner ready for me.

Yours

Robert



Attribution

CC0 1.0 Universal

[X104QJ], Letter from Robert Anderson Miller to Mary Valinda (Mrs Lewis) Miller, June 16th, 1902

Title
[X104QJ], Letter from Robert Anderson Miller to Mary Valinda (Mrs Lewis) Miller, June 16th, 1902

Author
Miller, Robert Anderson

Recipient
Miller, Mary Valinda (Mrs Lewis)

Mentioned

- Chautauqua Institution
- Miller, Edward Burkett
- Miller, Louise Igoe (Mrs Robert A.)
- Miller, Mary Emily
- Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)
- Miller, Robert Anderson, Jr
- Miller, Lewis, II

Date
1902-06-16

Type
Letter

Subject

- Edison-Miller family
- Travel (TAE and family)

Folder ID
X104Q-F

Document ID
X104QJ

URL
https://edisondigital.rutgers.edu/document/X104QJ

Rights
Edison-Ford Winter Estates

Publisher
Thomas A. Edison Papers, School of Arts and Sciences, Rutgers University

License
CC0 1.0 Universal

Timestamp
16 June 1902

Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin
Preußischer Kulturbesitz

xasia

Created with PDiiif v0.2.3
https:/pdiiif.jbaiter.de

https://edisondigital.rutgers.edu/iiif/2/X104QJ/manifest

ROBERT A. MILLER.
PONCE, PORTO RICO.

June 16" 1902

My Dear Mother.

I have a great deal of rain to write about today. It has rained here every day for the last three weeks and some days in fact most days and nights continuously so that now we are sure we have had enough but there seems to be more coming and we know not the end of it. Rain stops business school and pleasure + church but gives us a little time to visit at home and get acquainted with one another and do a little reading. We sent the children to school this morning in a coach but there were only 8 children in Lewis' room so it would have made but little difference had he not gone. We hope the rain will soon let up and then things will grow finely. But so long as there is no sun there cannot be much fruit &c.

I suppose now our Robert J has left you sure enough. I don't know exactly when he will set sail now on what boat as all such plans have been made since the writing of the letter we got from you in the mail last Friday but if the Shawmut on which I suppose he will come sails from New York tomorrow he has left there by now and will soon be fixed on the steamer. I suppose he will come on the Shawmut as it will be cheaper and come direct here. I presume we will

leaves his probable plans in the mail this week or next sure as you have by this time all the information possible. and all this week up to Thursday night to write us the plans.

It is too bad Nina could not get to the commencement proceedings which we hope passed off smoothly and nicely without any of our pains. I did not know Nina was traveling so very much but when she goes she has to take so many and so much that it makes quite a burden. We know something of that for ourselves as it is no small thing to move our family so we don't do it very often. I should think Nina might enjoy a stay in Canada for a time this summer unless it is too much rough'ing it for her.

I suppose it will be very quiet and restful to you this summer to remain at Oak Place without school or other diversion to cause excitement and require your time and attention. You will have to help Ed look after his chickens. I should think by this time his chicken business had grown to quite an industry. How is it?

We have packed two of our wooden bed slats and are going to send them to Chautauqua Express so as to have them there when our cottage is ready. We have not used them for sometime here as they draw animal life too much and these require too much care and attention and we are afraid of wood worms, to let them stand around here unused so are sending them north for safe keeping. There may be no place at Chautauqua to store them but in your cottage

And I presume you would not object to Chris being put there for one winter & in case we will have them put some place else if our cottage is not ready as Lonie expects.

I am afraid Robert Jr will not have the most kids here down here this summer as there are no boys for him to play with and he will have to make acquaintance with some of the P.Rican boys or play alone. I am inclined to think he will be ready to return to Akron in October. I hope to go with him about the 1st of Oct. When does school commence? I cannot go before Oct 1st as my assistant has asked for September as a vacation and I granted it so I cannot go until his return but I will remain over for Thanksgiving and return immediately after that day. I am counting on quite a fine time on my first vacation in nearly 4 years.

June 17th am.

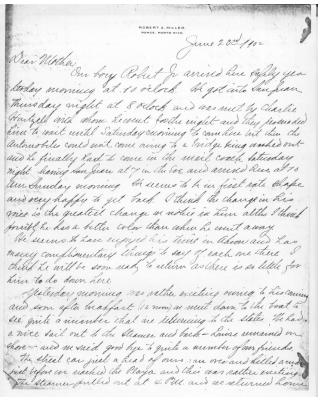
It still rains and rains. Got to the dentists this morning to have a tooth fixed. and he said it was going to keep on raining until Porto Rico was washed away but I guess he is mistaken. I look for a lull pretty soon and then perhaps we can do something.

Lonie said last eve she had written Mary a long letter so I guess you will know every thing that is going on.

Tonight we go to an announcement party at Mrs Fritze's and a week from last night we have a wedding at the church and I am to give the orphan bride away and afterwards they are to have a reception at our home. It is not quite our wedding but we took pity on an orphan homeless school teacher and are trying to give her a little pleasure.

All are well and send love to you and all

Sam Robert.



Attribution

CC0 1.0 Universal

[X104QK], Letter from Robert Anderson Miller to Mary Valinda (Mrs Lewis) Miller, June 23rd, 1902

Title
[X104QK], Letter from Robert Anderson Miller to Mary Valinda (Mrs Lewis) Miller, June 23rd, 1902

Author
Miller, Robert Anderson

Recipient
Miller, Mary Valinda (Mrs Lewis)

Mentioned

- Edison, Charles
- Hartzell, Charles
- Edison, Madeleine
- Miller, Louise Igoe (Mrs Robert A.)
- Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)
- Miller, Robert Anderson, Jr

Date
1902-06-23

Type
Letter

Subject
Edison-Miller family

Folder ID
X104Q-F

Document ID
X104QK

URL
https://edisondigital.rutgers.edu/document/X104QK

Rights
Edison-Ford Winter Estates

Publisher
Thomas A. Edison Papers, School of Arts and Sciences, Rutgers University

License
CC0 1.0 Universal

Timestamp
23 June 1902

Created with PDiiif v0.2.3
https:/pdiiif.jbaiter.de

https://edisondigital.rutgers.edu/iiif/2/X104QK/manifest

ROBERT A. MILLER.
PONCE, PORTO RICO.

June 23rd 1902

Dear Mother

Our boy Robert Jr arrived here safely yesterday morning at 10 o'clock. He got into San Juan Thursday night at 8 o'clock and was met by Charlie Hartzell with whom he went for the night and they persuaded him to wait until Saturday morning to come here but then the automobile could not come owing to a bridge being washed out and he finally had to come in the mail coach Saturday night leaving San Juan at 7 in the Eve and arrived here at 10 am Sunday morning. He seems to be in first rate shape and very happy to get back. I think the change in his voice is the greatest change we notice in him altho I think possibly he has a better color than when he went away.

He seems to have enjoyed his time in Akron and has many complimentary things to say of each one there I think he will be soon ready to return as there is so little for him to do down here.

Yesterday morning was rather exciting owing to his coming and soon after breakfast (12 noon) we went down to the boat to see quite a number that are returning to the states. We had a nice sail out to the Steamer and back — Louise remained on shore — and we said good bye to quite a number of our friends.

The street car just a head of ours ran over and killed a man just before we reached the Playa and this was rather exciting. The Steamer pulled out at 4 PM. and we returned home

had dinner and at 8.30 PM. we went on to church to rehearse for the wedding tonight getting through at 10 PM. when we went home to bed and the bridal party went up to town.

Tonight at 8.30 is the wedding at the church and at 9.30 the reception at our house. This is the last and only excitement I know of and I suppose from tonight on all will be quiet. We are to furnish sandwiches or at least bread for them for tonight but as every one buys bread from the bakery every day and this morning the bakers struck for higher wages I do not know how we are going to come out but I think we will get our bread at the soldiers barracks.

Robert seems to have been ready to come home and lost no time starting. He got his steamer ticket for $20.00 to San Juan on the "Red D" steamer Philadelphia and says he was not sea sick at all but enjoyed himself all the way. Nina, Madeline & Gladys saw him off and he said were feeling very well. He was sorry not to have more time in Otaru but says they got away with the fruit on one cherry tree. I presume Nina is just as well satisfied that he did not tarry longer. I am glad Robert and report that you were feeling better. He seems to think you took excellent care of him. On the way down he was fishing or something of that kind and some how got the hook caught in the side of his hand cutting quite a gash. He says that if it had been with you you would have had his hand bound up and perhaps even have called the Doctor. He seems to think you took his small pains and hurts rather seriously.

You know it is a part of my teaching to teach against paying much if any attention to hurts or pains and I fancy Robert has in

tibed a little of my teaching along this line and I am rather glad of it for I do think too much is made of one's aches & pains or ill temper in other words we allow these things to hurt us or be pitied by us thus favoring our selfishness. The attention we give such things generally is on account of our selfishness and we ought to wish away from selfishness if we want happiness and peace on this world for all.

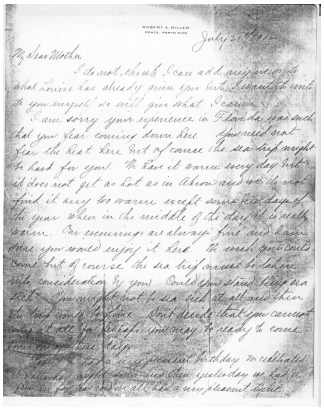
At last our rains seem to have let up for a time and we get a little sunshine and it really seems good to get it even if it is quite warm enough without its shining.

Your letter was our only personal letter last mail so we seem to be rather out of the flow lately. Lawie got and always gets plenty of mail for or about the Society but we do not get many personal letters any more. I do not have many to write to these days as two or three of my best correspondents are not with us any more and I have found no one to take their places.

We will plant the strawberry plants at once and we would be delighted if they should grow. It has been four years since I tasted a fresh or uncooked strawberry and almost the same as to fresh peaches and pears, cherries and grapes. We do get apples once in a while but generally 5 cts each so we do not indulge liberally. We thank you for the plants and will let you know results soon as possible.

All send you a world of love and best wishes. I will probably write you again tomorrow or Wednesday morning for our boat from here on Wednesday.

Your Robert



Attribution

CC0 1.0 Universal

[X104QL], Letter from Robert Anderson Miller to Mary Valinda (Mrs Lewis) Miller, July 21st, 1902

Title
[X104QL], Letter from Robert Anderson Miller to Mary Valinda (Mrs Lewis) Miller, July 21st, 1902

Author
Miller, Robert Anderson

Recipient
Miller, Mary Valinda (Mrs Lewis)

Mentioned

- Miller, John Vincent
- Miller, Louise Igoe (Mrs Robert A.)
- Miller, Robert Anderson, Jr

Date
1902-07-21

Type
Letter

Subject
Edison-Miller family

Folder ID
X104Q-F

Document ID
X104QL

URL
https://edisondigital.rutgers.edu/document/X104QL

Rights
Edison-Ford Winter Estates

Publisher
Thomas A. Edison Papers, School of Arts and Sciences, Rutgers University

License
CC0 1.0 Universal

Timestamp
21 July 1902

Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin Preußischer Kulturbesitz
xasia
Created with PDiiif v0.2.3
https:/pdiiif.jbaiter.de
https://edisondigital.rutgers.edu/iiif/2/X104QL/manifest

ROBERT A. MILLER.
PONCE, PORTO RICO.

July 21st 1902

My Dear Mother

I do not think I can add any news to what Louise has already given you but I want to write to you myself so will give what I can.

I am sorry your experience in Florida was such that you fear coming down here. You need not fear the heat here but of course the sea trip might be hard for you. We have it warm every day but it does not get as hot as in Akron and we do not find it any too warm except some few days of the year when in the middle of the day it is really warm. Our evenings are always fine and I am sure you would enjoy it here. We wish you could come but of course the sea trip must be taken into consideration by you. Could you stand being sea sick? You might not be sea sick at all and then the trip would be fine. Don't decide that you cannot come at all for perhaps you may be ready to come some of these days.

Robert & I had a very pleasant birthday. We celebrated it Saturday night. Louise and Chas yesterday we had a few in for tea and we all had a very pleasant time.

I think Robert I will go up about the middle of September so as to be on time for school then I will get there about the middle of October and make you quite a visit. That is only about 3 months off and time flies very fast so I will be there almost before you know it.

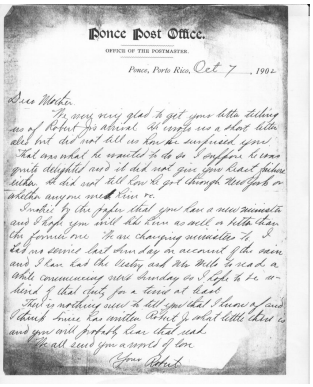
They are going to try to have a great time here on Friday the 20th celebrating the 4th anniversary of the landing of the Americans in Porto Rico. I am on the finance committee and have been soliciting money for the day.

We are all well and quite contented and we all hope you are enjoying the same conditions.

All send worlds of love

Your Robert

Has John been sick? You speak of his being better.


Ponce Post Office.
OFFICE OF THE POSTMASTER.
Ponce, Porto Rico, Oct 7 1902
Dear Mother
I'm very very glad to get your little letter as of Robert not abroad. It cheers me a deal but did not tell me how he suprised you
That was what he wanted to do so I suppose it was quite delightful and it did not give you Heart failure either. It did not kill Lew to get through West Point as
Inside by the paper that you have a new numerate and I hope you will like him as well a little better than the former one. We are changing numerals to 1
Did no storms last Sunday on account of the rain and I have had the Derby and Mr Mills to read a while commencing next Sunday so I shall be afraid of that suit for a friend at least
There is nothing new to tell you that I know of and think since has written Robert if what little there and you will probably hear that read.
Kind and love from a world of love
Your Father

Attribution

CC0 1.0 Universal

[X104QM], Letter from Robert Anderson Miller to Mary Valinda (Mrs Lewis) Miller, October 7th, 1902

Title
[X104QM], Letter from Robert Anderson Miller to Mary Valinda (Mrs Lewis) Miller, October 7th, 1902

Author
Miller, Robert Anderson

Recipient
Miller, Mary Valinda (Mrs Lewis)

Mentioned
Miller, Robert Anderson, Jr

Date
1902-10-07

Type
Letter

Subject
Edison-Miller family

Folder ID
X104Q-F

Document ID
X104QM

URL
https://edisondigital.rutgers.edu/document/X104QM

Rights
Edison-Ford Winter Estates

Publisher
Thomas A. Edison Papers, School of Arts and Sciences, Rutgers University

License
CC0 1.0 Universal

Timestamp
7 October 1902

Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin Preußischer Kulturbesitz
xasia
Created with PDI v0.2.3
https://pdiiif.jbaiter
https://edisondigital.rutgers.edu/iiif/2/X104QM/manifest

Ponce Post Office.

OFFICE OF THE POSTMASTER.

Ponce, Porto Rico, Oct 7, 1902

Dear Mother.

We were very glad to get your letter telling us of Robert Jr's arrival. He wrote us a short letter also but did not tell us how he surprised you. That was what he wanted to do so I suppose he was quite delighted and it did not give you heart failure either. He did not tell how he got through New York or whether anyone met him &c.

I notice by the paper that you have a new minister and I hope you will like him as well or better than the former one. We are changing ministers to. I had no service last Sunday on account of the rain and I have had the Vestry ask Mr Mills to read a while commencing next Sunday so I hope to be relieved of that duty for a time at least.

There is nothing more to tell you that I know of and I think Louise has written Robert Jr what little there is and you will probably hear that read.

We all send you a world of love.

Your Robert